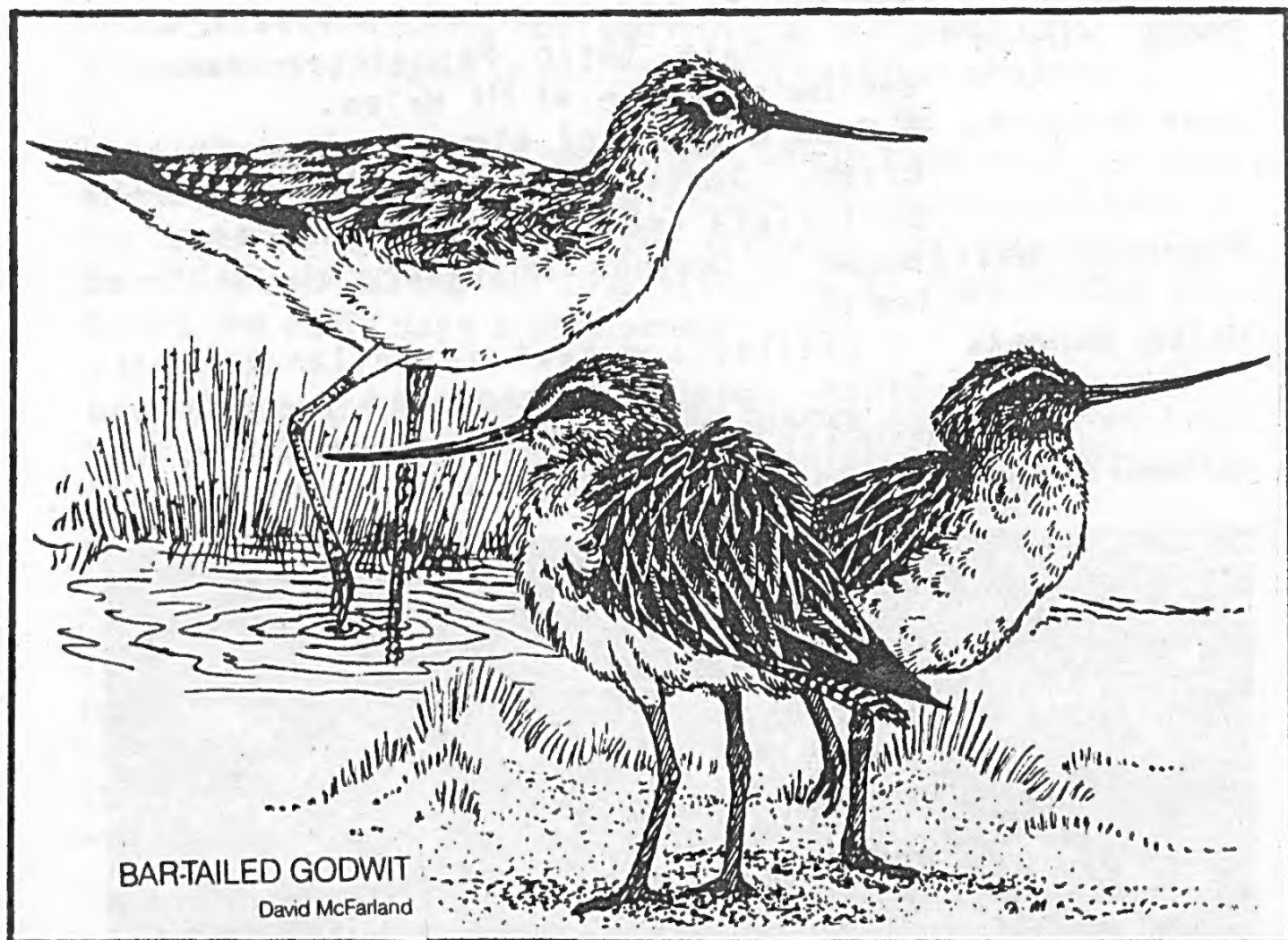


FEBRUARY 1991

# Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat *Incorporated*

## EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

- Meeting Feb. 1 Victorian Wildlife Atlas -  
Mr R. Humphries
- Meeting March 1 Annual General Meeting -  
Members Night
- Excursion Feb. 3 Anglesea Area with Miss M. White
- Excursion March 3 Evansford Reservoir



BART-TAILED GODWIT  
David McFarland

### SHORE BIRDS ....

President: Mr K Hammond Ph.053 394534  
Vice Pres: Miss H Burgess 312210  
Secretary: Mr J Gregurke 394993  
Treasurer: Mrs F Williamson 327631  
Editor: Mr L Fink 052 861319

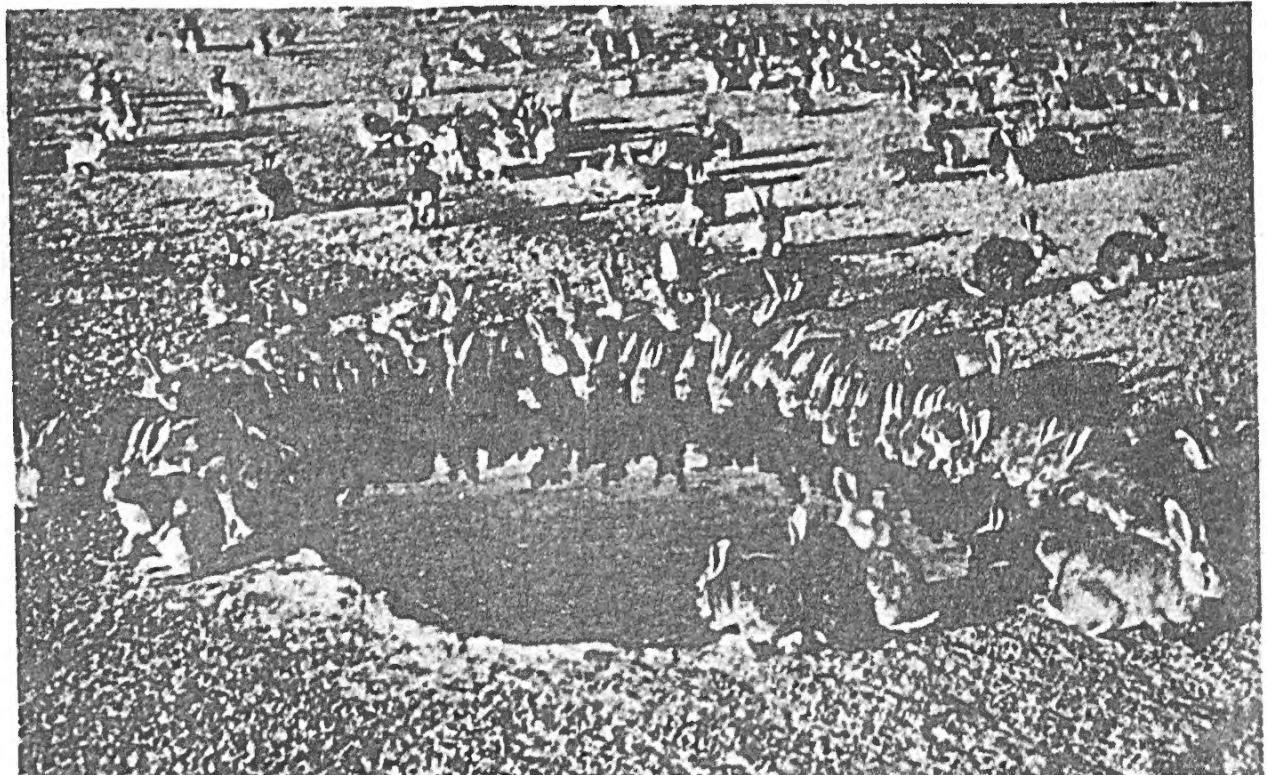
Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydiard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.  
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARM-STRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY\*

Field Reports:    December Meeting



- Lyndsay Fink        - The three most common animals seen on roadsides are the introduced species: rabbits, hares and foxes.
- Pat Murphy                - Good patch of flowers on Berringa-Cape Clear road, includes a stand of *Xanthorea minor*.
- Harvey Hooper        - Large patch of Trigger Plants flowering at Brown Hill end of bypass road.
- Greg Binns                - Yellow Box is flowering at Mt Beckwith and attracting flocks of Little Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet and honeyeaters. Colourful group of birds around waterhole included Golden Whistler, Blue Wren, Diamond Firetail, Greenfinch and assorted honeyeaters.
- Frank Harrap                - Female Satin Flycatcher seen in Barlow's garden at Mt Helen.
- John Gregurke        - Good display of flowers along Sailors Creek, Daylesford including *Parahebe perfoliata* and *Thysanotus tuberosus*.
- Florence Williamson    - Rufous Whistler at Ballarat North.
- Helen Burgess        - Little? Lorikeet in Ballarat North. Other members reported widespread sightings of Lorikeets in Wendouree.
- Our worst introduced pest, the Rabbit — a flashback to plague numbers.

Photo: Late W. Mules



Review from "The Victorian Naturalist"

The latest issue of The Victorian Naturalist (Oct/Dec 1990) is available to be borrowed from the club library. Below is a brief summary of some of the articles it contains.

The Giant Burrowing Frog is found in the wet sclerophyll forests of East Gippsland. The frog's diet indicates that it is a general predator feeding on a wide range of insects and other arthropods. Details of its life history are given. There is still much to be learnt about the frog to make sure that land management practices are suitable for the frog's survival.

Another research report deals with the conditions required for plants to germinate successfully. This information is useful in planning revegetation projects.

Bones of the Southern Right Whale have recently been found in Altona Bay near Point Cook. The bones had been in the water a long time and are probably the remains of an animal killed during whaling activities in Port Phillip Bay during the early days a settlement.

Other articles look at how plants reduce water loss during drought, visits by early botanists to the Victorian Alps, and an excursion by FNCV to Mount Buffalo.

There is a short note about the unusual sighting of an Echidna in the intertidal zone of a beach at Corner Inlet. Echidnas usually feed on ants and termites but occasionally feed on beetle larvae. The only likely source of food on the beach were small arthropods in the decomposing sea grass. Echidnas are versatile creatures which utilise a wide range of habitats.



## Notes for your Diary.

The North East Field Naturalists Club is hosting the V.N.C.A. campout on the long Weekend in March. The venue is Howmans Gap Alpine Camp.

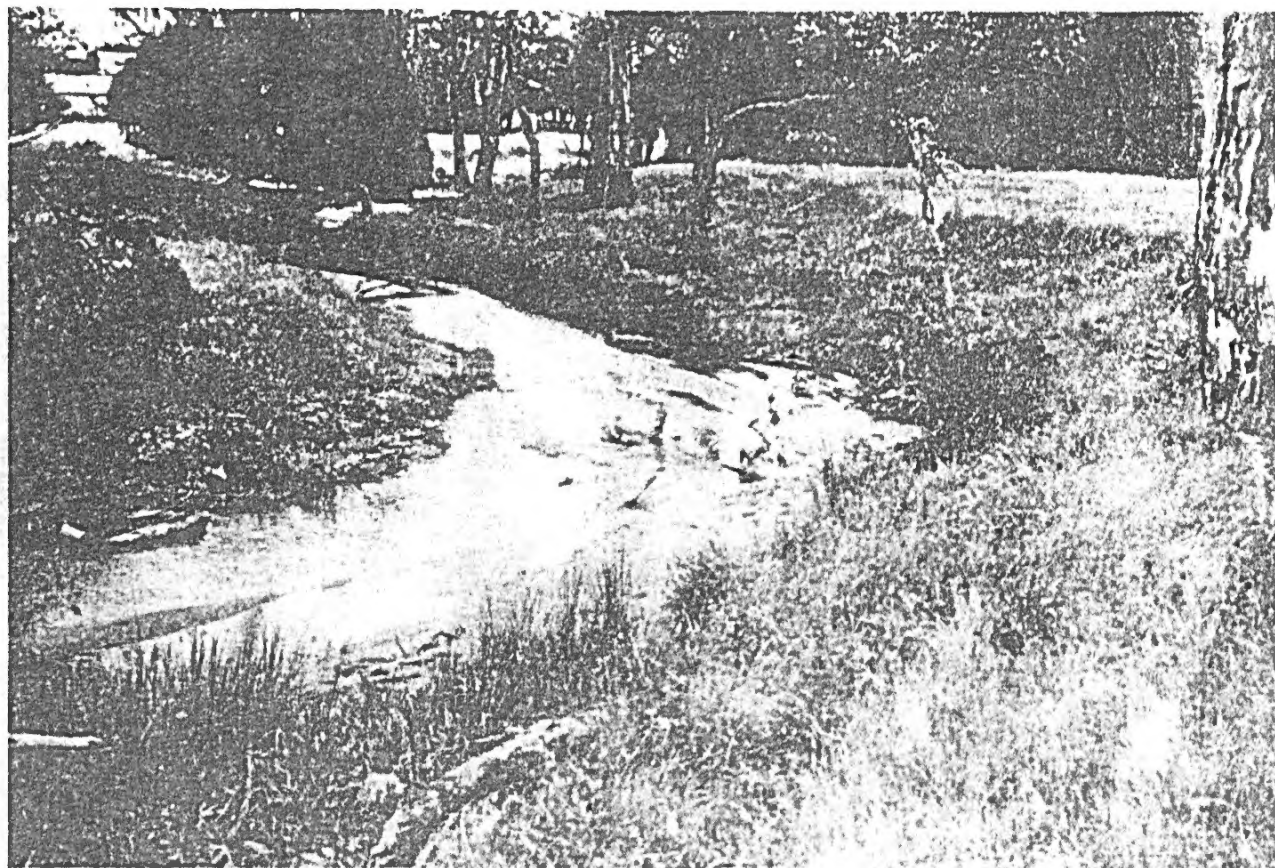
The date is Friday March 8th - Monday March 11. Accommodation is in modern Chalet type building with interior toilet and shower facilities, blankets and pillows are provided, bring your own linen.

All meals are provided, no meal Friday night.

Cost \$70.00 per head adults children 2 - 5  
\$35.00 6 - 9 \$60.00.

Further enquiries see the Secretary John Gregurke

Next Committee meeting 8.pm on the 14th February  
at No 1 John St. Ballarat.



Pleasant streamside stream, suitable for recreation, showing mature red gum but very little regeneration.

## December Meeting. Caring for Native Animals.

Our Guest Speaker for December was Berris Perry, who first started her wildlife refuge in 1984, her first animal was a baby possum.

Small animals like this need both body contact and warmth and feeding with a suitable food, Soya milk was found to be better than cow's milk for possums.

Constipation is a problem with theses small a animals and they must always be with you.

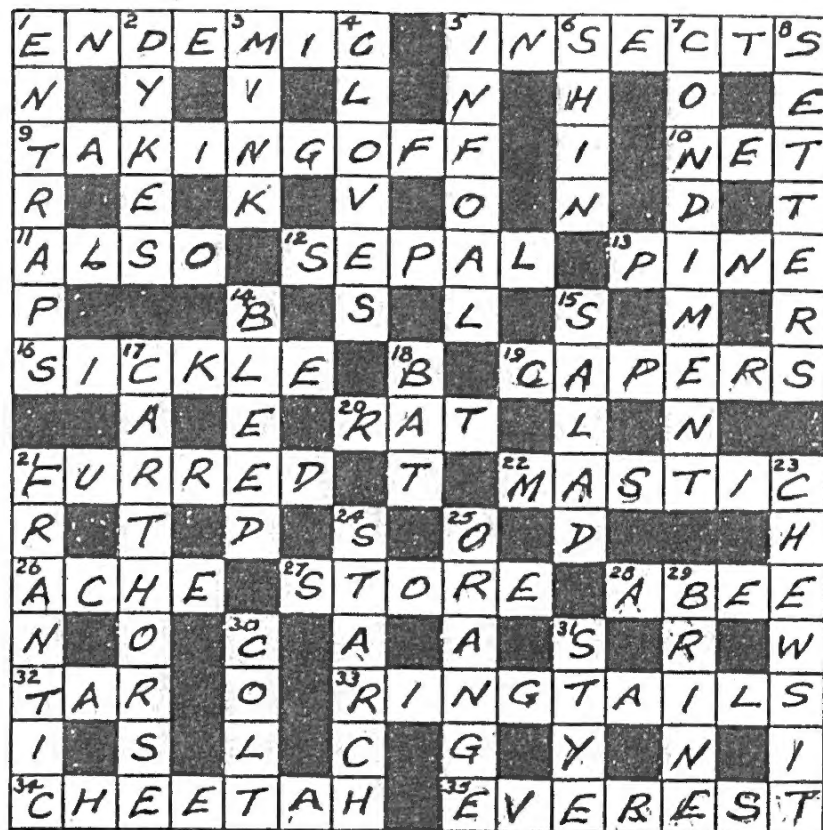
A sheepskin pouch with a thin layer of cotton against the body will give both warmth and body contact.

Next were two sugar gliders, these small embryos weighed 8 and 9 Gr. and were fed every two hours with a special eyedropper at about half a drop at a time, as they grew the began to eat eggs high protein serial honey and moths etc. They also ate spiders. They were very active and grew fine silky fur

Other animals she has had were Kangaroos, wambats and swamp wallabies. Berris showed some excellant photographs of some of her patients.

Berris was thanked in the usual way for a very interesting evening.

L.F.



**SOLUTION to No 21**



A chart showing where this plant was seen flowering in the Ballarat district over a twelve month period, August 1989 through to July 1990.

DATE	LOCALITY	COMMENTS
August	Ross Creek Italian Gully Basalt	Red flowers predominate White(in bud)- covers entire slope. White flowers predominate.
September	Berringa South and west of Surface Point Linton Daylesford	White predominates. White only - common plant. Pink, white flowers. White only - hillsides to left of Midland Highway.
October	Berringa	White predominates.
November	Misery Creek Rd.	White predominates (considered to be a late flowering variety)
December	Wombat Forest	White only.
January	Berringa	Pink, red, white - early blossums.
February	Berringa	Pink, red, white.
March	Creswick Surface Hill H.A. Berringa Wildflower Res.	Red, pink. White flowers only. Pink, white, red - glorious display.
April	Linton Garibaldi	Red, white, pink Red predominates.
May	Misery Creek Rd. Walking Track	Pink, white flowers in glorious profusion.
June	Durham Lead	Red predominates.
July	Dereel Basalt	Red - not common. Pink, white.



## Botanical Notes.

Genera of the family Poaceae ( grass family) fairly common around Ballarat. These are arranged in alphabetical order. ( 19 altogether )

<u>Genus</u>		<u>Common name</u>	<u>Usually found</u>	<u>Major plant characteristics</u>
Agrostis	x	Brown-top Bent Bent	widespread on farms and road- sides	a tufted or rhizomatous perennial. May be far too common in pastures.
Anthoxanthum	x	Sweet Vernal grass	Not common	Scented perennial, tall, not palatable.
Avena	x	Oat, Wild Oat	Important crop plant	Annual. Inflorescence ( inf.) a loose panicle.
Briza	x	Quaking grass Shivery grass	Roadsides	Pedicels slender and spike- lets hang down in a loose panicle
Bromus	x	Brome grasses Prairie grass	Widespread - often weeds	Inf. a panicle, with spike- lets often compressed laterally Most have long awns.
Cynodon		Often called couch grass ( Bermuda grass )	Roadsides, lawns	Stoloniferous perennial growing close to the ground. Grows mainly in the summer.
Cynosurus	x	Dog's- tail	Not common	Panicle spike-like - spikelets nearly sessile.
Dactylis	x	Cocksfoot	Pasture grass	Perennial with strongly compressed shoots. Spikelets compressed laterally, crowded in thick clusters.
Danthonia ( at least 10 spp. )		Wallaby grasses	Roadsides and widespread in open forests and non- cultivated areas.	Usually tufted perenn- ials with flat or fold- leaf blades. Ligule a ring of hairs. Awned.